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Local pg 3

H1N1 and Lucy: A year in Edmonton

Canada/World pg 4

The top news stories of 2009





Moments to never forget

Celebrity Buzz pg 14

Famous friends we lost in 2009

Metro will not be publishing over the holidays. The next edition will appear Jan. 4, 2010.









Images of the decade: Michael Jackson (clockwise from top left), Canadian troops in Afghanistan, the global economic collapse and the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Defining a difficult decade

Was it the decade when bankers' greed caused a worldwide financial meltdown, or will it be terrorism or technology that people associate with the first 10 years of the 21st century?

Opinions vary, with authors, journalists, comedians and futurists zeroing in on different facets of this decade. But most agree the era is more likely

to be remembered as a toxic time than a golden age.

"I will remember it as a frightening decade," said Linden MacIntyre, long-time CBC journalist and 2009 winner of the Giller Prize, the country's top literary award.

The United States set the pessimistic tone early on and led the way on most of the issues that shaped the period, MacIntyre said.

The outcome of the 2000 election was controversial—George W. Bush won, but acrimony lingered—and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the U.S. proved to be a turning point. MacIntyre said 9-11 and the international reaction sparked a climate of fear that would persist for years to come.

It's a view shared by comedian Rick Mercer, who strove to give Canadians a break from the unrelenting negativity through his blistering political and social satire

Calling the decade a time that people would "rather forget." Mercer said the paranoia that followed 9-11 was eventually succeeded by anxiety over the foundering global economy.

In Canada, the emergence of a strengthened

Conservative party, coupled with the Liberals' waning fortunes, led to three successive minority governments that highlighted national tensions.

"Elections every year and a half, that's great for my business," said Mercer. "If you view politics as people view sports, elections are like the Super Bowl, and I want one every year."

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CHEVROLET

Local

2009 filled with unexpected changes

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handvsides@metronews.ca

Stranger-than-fiction tales of a provincial deficit, the mass vaccination of almost a million people and a tug of war over a 9,000-pound elephant are real-life stories that gripped Edmonton and blanketed the pages of Metro in 2009.

By spring, municipal, provincial and federal politicians jumped on the virtual bandwagon known as Twitter. Local Twitter expert Mack Make says over two million tweets were posted by Edmontonians who flocked to the site in 2009, sharing thoughts and links on the city in 140 characters or less.

May brought an economic red zone never before seen in the lifetime of some Albertans — the first-ever provincial deficit in 16



Firefighters worked to contain a two-alarm blaze on March 23 at 10730 - 101 St. No one was injured but businesses were damaged in the downtown fire. Bridal International, National Cabinet Ltd., and Rosie's Gift Shop are the three businesses that were significantly impacted by the fire.

vears

"The deficit should be a reminder not only to the government but to Albertans of what happens when you drive up your spending by 11 per cent a year while relying on one-time oil and gas revenues to pay the bills," Canadian Taxpayers Federation spokesman Scott Hennig told Metro. Despite cries from protesters, parents and educators, controversial legislation Bill 44 passed in June, which will mute classroom talks on sex. sexual orienta-

tion and religion.

The current climax in the battle for Lucy the elephant peaked in September, when TV icon Bob Barker and a team of animal experts arrived in Edmonton with hopes to move her from the Valley Zoo, to no avail.

The same month brought news a Strathcona County group home would be closing its doors, after two 14-year-old boys escaped the facility in late May and were later charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Barry Boenke, 68, and Susan Trudel, 50.

A man allegedly frustrated with the provincial workers' compensation system stormed the WCB building in mid-October, taking employees hostage for hours before eventually surrendering.

"I think it made people realize how vulnerable they actually are," Calgary-based hostage negotiations expert Daniel Clayton said.

In November, a Sylvan Lake-born journalist was freed from 15 months in captivity after she was kidnapped and held for ransom in Somalia. Amanda Lindhout and Australian photojournalist Nigel Brennan were freed from their captors after a ransom was paid by their families.

"Through the media, we hear about kidnappings in Iraq and Afghanistan on a regular basis, but when the story is closer to home, as with Amanda Lindhout, people then start to pay attention," Clayton added.

Mid-April deaths in Mexico and the announcement of an impending Canadian pandemic were the beginnings of the largest mass vaccination in provincial history. By December 1, 850,000 Albertans had been vaccinated for H1N1.

Get outdoors and see the city

ANDREAS MORSE

The presents are all unwrapped and you're still digesting the holiday feast from last night. It's the perfect opportunity to dress up in your winter gear and discover Edmonton's gift of the great outdoors.

Whether you're into hiking, skiing, skating, snow-boarding, sledding ... the list really goes on, and it's all available to you in your own backyard.

Start with skiing, of the downhill variety. Forget the four-hour drive to the Rockies, they've been taken over by tourists. Stay in the city instead and enjoy a stunning view of Edmonton's skyline on Connors Hill at the Edmonton Ski Club.

If downhill's not your bag, Edmonton's expansive river valley and parks system is perfect for crosscountry skiing.

For those more comfortable on ice than snow, there are outdoor skating rinks all around the city. Some of

the more popular destinations are the Hawrelak and Victoria Park ovals.

Finally, if you just feel like you need to get out of the city, about 40 minutes east of Edmonton is the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot recreation area. Almost 100 square kilometres of backcountry right next to Elk Island National Park.

The tree can come down next week and who wants to stand in line at a store anyway? Edmonton's outdoors is a gift you'll want to return to all winter long.

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Holiday activities

Fun events to do over the Christmas break

- MAGIC The Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium will be full of Illusions, Magic 'N Miracles on Dec. 27. Order tickets online at ticketmaster.ca.
- CHURCHILL SQUARE Ring in the New Year at Edmonton's biggest party in Sir Winston Churchill Square. Welcome in 2010 with an amazing display of fireworks. Visit edmonton.ca for more information.
- MUTTART CONSERVATORY Come to the Muttart Conservatory for an evening of New Year's fun for families. For tickets call 780-442-5311.
- DOCTORS WITHOUT BOR-DERS The Edmonton International New Year's Gala will be a spectacular evening of celebrity entertainment in support of Doctors Without Borders. Get your tickets at ticketmaster.ca. • BEACH PARTY Splash and slide into 2010 in a tropical en-

- vironment close to home by attending the World Waterpark's New Year's Eve Family Beach Party at West Edmonton Mall. Call 780-444-5321 for more information.
- MOS DEF The hip-hop star will be at West Edmonton Mall performing at the Edmonton Events Centre on Dec. 31. Get your tickets at ticketmaster.ca. • HAPPY ZOO YEAR The Valley Zoo is hosting a party on New Year's Day. Call 780-442-5311 for more information.
- JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
 The groundbreaking theatrical
 masterpiece by legendary writing team Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice is returning
 to the Northern Alberta Jubilee
 Auditorium on Jan. 2 and 3 for
 three performances. Get your
 tickets at ticketmaster.ca.

ANDREAS MORSE/ FOR METRO EDMONTON



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Canada/World

The stories that shaped 2009

of influence peddling.

1950.

7 — Settlement announced in class-action

lawsuit filed over abuse by

priests in Nova Scotia since

Afghanistan's first demo-

cratic presidential election

run by Afghans in decades.

7 — Three British Mus-

lim extremists are convict-

ed of 2006 conspiracy to

blow up airliners bound for U.S. and Canada using

26 — Director Roman

liquid explosives.

Millions vote in

Year in Review

A look back at the top national and international news events of 2009:

- 15 US Airways jet crash lands in Hudson River in New York City; all 155 on board survive and pilot Chesley Sullenberger is hailed as hero. **20** — Barack Obama is
- sworn in as U.S. president. 27 Minority Conserva-
- tive government delivers budget promising \$40 billion in economic stimulus over two years.

- 9 Syncrude Canada is charged with breaking en-vironmental laws in the deaths of hundreds of waterfowl at tailing pond near Fort McMurray, Alta. 17 — Obama signs into
- law \$787-billion US stimulus package.

MARCH

- 5 Vincent Li is found not criminally responsible for beheading passenger on Greyhound bus in August 2008.
- 19 Josef Fritzl of Austria, who locked his daughter in a dungeon for 24 years and fathered her seven children, is sentenced to life in a psychiatric ward.

- **6** Earthquake devastates Abruzzo region of central Italy, killing nearly
- 300 people.
 20 Tens of thousands of civilians flee Sri Lanka's northern war zone ahead of the government's deadline for Tamil militants to surrender.
- **30** About 1,200 Halifax-area residents evacuated by brush fire.
- Michael Ignatieff formally claims the Liberal leadership.



April 29 — A girl is seen outside Mexico's National Institute of Respiratory Diseases after being checked for H1N1. Canada reported its first confirmed cases three days earlier.



Oct. 15 — Authorities chase balloon for 80 kilometres after parents of six-year-old boy said he was inside: the drama turned out to be a hoax.

- 8 Health authorities confirm Canada's first H1N1 death, a woman in northern Alberta.
- **20** Two Woodstock, Ont., residents are charged in the death of Tori Stafford, 8; her body was found on July 19.

 25 — Gov.
- Michaelle Jean eats a piece of raw seal heart in Arctic. North Korea reports it successfully conducted an underground nuclear test. JUNE
- 1 General Motors files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in U.S.
- WHO declares H1N1 flu outbreak a pan-

- **12** Iranians vote in presidential election that sparks massive protests.
- **22** About 24,000 municipal workers in Toronto go on strike.
- 29 Bernard Madoff is sentenced to 150 years behind bars for defrauding investors.

- 3 Former Republican U.S. vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin quits as Alaska's governor.
- Chinese troops swarm the capital of western Xinjiang after ethnic riots leave at least 156 dead. 14 — Canada slaps visa
- requirements on citizens of Mexico and Czech Republic, citing surge in refugee claims.
- Matthew Cpl. Wilcox found guilty in the shooting of a fellow sol-

AUGUST

- **2** About 2,300 people are ordered out of their homes as wildfire threatens Lillooet, B.C.
- **5** Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien is found not guilty

Remembering the fallen

Canadian soldiers who gave their lives in Afghanistan this year

- Trooper Brian Good
- Sapper Sean Greenfield
- Warrant Officer Dennis Raymond Brown
- Cpl. Dany Olivier Fortin
- Cpl. Kenneth Chad O'Quinn
- Trooper Marc Diab Master-Cpl. Scott Vernelli
- Cpl. Tyler Crooks Trooper Jack Bouthillier
- Trooper Corey Joseph Hayes
- Trooper Karine Blais
- Private Alexandre Peloquin
- Cpl. Nicholas Bulger

- Master Cpl. Charles-Philippe Michaud
- Master Cpl. Patrice Audet
- Cpl. Martin Joannette
- Pte. Sebastien Courcy
- Sapper Matthieu Allard
- Cpl. Christian Bobbitt
- Cpl. Darby Morin
- Major Yannick Pepin
- Cpl. Jean-Francois Drouin
- Pte. Patrick Lormand Pte. Jonathan Couturier
- Lt. Justin Boyes
- Sapper Steven Marshall

nounces police investiga-tion into allegations of corruption in province's construction industry.

- 26 Most provinces and territories begin offering H1N1 flu shots.
- **29** Quebec and New Brunswick reach deal for Hydro-Quebec to buy majority of N.B. Power's assets for \$4.8 billion.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Afghan President Hamid Karzai is declared the victor of country's disputed election.
- **5** Thirteen people are killed in shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, military base.
- 7 U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passes landmark health-

18 — Former Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin tells Commons committee that prisoners were likely tortured after being handed by Canada to Afghan authorities in 2006-07.

25 — Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout and an Australian colleague are freed 15 months after they were abducted in Somalia.

DECEMBER

- 1 President Obama orders 30,000 more U.S. troops to be deployed in Afghanistan.
- **7** UN conference on climate change gets underway in Copenhagen.
- 9 MPs vote in favour of harmonized sales tax for Ontario and B.C.

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Comment

Harper machine remains well-oiled



he recession never became a depression. We didn't have an election. Another Liberal leader was eaten alive. The Harper machine solidified its grip. The hope of never again going into deficit died a mighty death.

But the year couldn't compare to the hurly-burly of 2008, which featured the re-election of the Conservatives and their subsequent brush with death when a coalition almost ousted them. In 2009, we had lots of noise, lots of election threats, but no big change in the political standings. There was some expecta-

eral trend north of the border, but the Obama effect never came to pass. The young in this country stayed turned off and tuned out of politics, which depressingly has become a game for only the middle-aged and old folk.

The year began auspiciously for Michael



reached.

The Conservatives, meanwhile, became heavy-spending Keynesians, combatting the recession with old-time liberal religion. Recessions usually give life to the political left, but the Greens were unable to increase their support while the NDP made few gains.

Harper maintained his image as a shrewd and crude political strategist, using every trick to smear his rivals and block them from legitimate avenues of inquiry. He then turned the tables on his image as a cold, calculating leader by taking to the stage to perform a piano-and-song rendition of a Beatles number. It was a media sensation.

By year's end problems

were accumulating for the Conservatives. Their inaction on global warming was denounced at home abroad. The Afghanistan detainees affair saw them trying to fight off charges of a coverup. And having promised no deficits 13 months earlier, their books were now forecasting a whopping deficit of \$60 billion.

Nevertheless, with the Opposition Liberals still appearing rather hapless, the Conservatives were well in command to begin their fifth year as a minority government. Minorities aren't supposed to last so long. Stephen Harper was defying the odds.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Hot issues for the year that lies ahead



It's that time of year again, when columnists are faced with two choices: Look back and pick the top stories or events that shaped the year just passed, or ahead and predict what's coming down the

The former is safer ground. That stuff actually happened. But it's more fun lurching into the future, and why worry? No one ever remembers if you're right or wrong.

So onward! Here are Sullivan's Fearless Predictions for 2010! Guaranteed to come true!

• Canada will get off the snide and actually win a few Olympic gold medals on home turf in Vancou-

ver. But not as many as "Global Warning. like. the **Not a typo. The** When women's curling favis predicts 2010 will ourite someone ca- be the hottest year lled Binyu ever, hotter than Wang, clear the rest 1998."

of the world is learning how to play in

the snow, too.
• Tiger Woods will be a lonely guy in 2010. And worth half as much. He may be the athlete of the decade, but that doesn't cut any ice at home. He had it all, but wanted more. The upside? He will have more time for golf with the ex-wife and kids barricaded on an island in

Sweden. So he'll be playing the field, and by that I mean other guys in plaid

pants.

• Greed is not so good:
The price of gold will go below \$1,000 US an ounce. I love this quote from Warren Buffett, the second richest man in Amer-"Gold ica: gets dug out

of the ground in Africa, or someplace. Then we melt it down, dig another hole, bury it again and pay people to stand around guarding it. It has no utility. Anyone watching from Mars would be scratching their head."

• Stephen Harper will still be prime minister this time next year unless a miracle

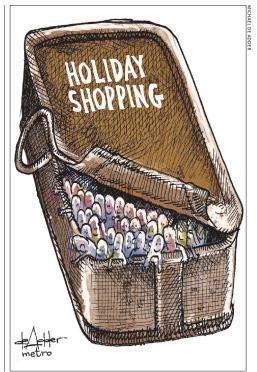
Michael Ignatieff gets his head out of his, um . book. But Harper should keep an eye on Jean Charest. As they say about New York, if you can make it in Quebec, you can

Stephen

make it anywhere.
• Global Warning. Not a typo. The British Met office predicts 2010 will be the hottest year ever, hotter than 1998. Glaciers will continue to melt. Oceans will continue to rise. Deniers will continue to deny. But you better hurry and book that Florida vacation — if this keeps up, 50 per cent of its beaches

will be underwater. • We will not find other life in the universe in 2010. Wouldn't it be weird if we're the only ones? It would serve us right.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



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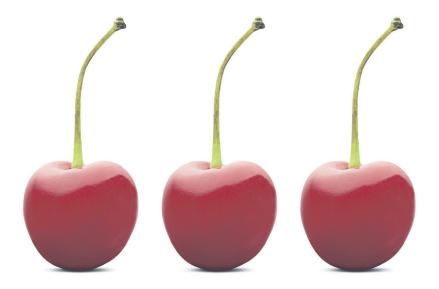
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Health & Beauty

Family dinner is done, time to look after yourself

Find all the beauty products you need to relax and unwind after the hectic holidays

So you asked for a professional flat iron and he got you... an iron. Well, fixing that gift-blunder yourself is what Boxing Day is for, especially when it comes to stocking up on beauty

"We've noticed that men go straight for the electronics department, and while they're checking out big-screen TVs and Wii

the units, women head for the beaudepartment," says Wayne Peterson, divisional vice president of cosmetics and fragrance for

Sears Canada, about post-Dec. 25 shopping.

"Women have spent the holidays looking after everyone else; this is the cially for the Boxing-Day time they needs to look after themselves.'

Understandably, bath sets and spa collections in particular are big attractions. But it's not all about what didn't sell before the holidavs enticements in

clude and travel



trial-size

sets from brands such as Shiseido, Estée Lauder and Clinique, brought in speshopping stretch into early January.

"Informalwe call this time for women 'A11 About Me," says Peterson. "Our advisales sors keep that in mind as they help customers

every

thing they need to pamper themselves.

Haircare and styling tools are also hot commodities, and should be even more so in Sears' new-concept beauty departments at Square One in Mississauga, Ont., and Maple-Centre view in Burlington, Ont.

In place of traditional beauty counters are spacious aisles open shelving, as well compact demo stawhere CUStomers can sit for a cosmetics application

how to augment hairstyles with Ken Paves Hairdo extensions.

learn

According Rhonda Sorenson, boutique manager at The Ritz location of Shoppers Drug Mart in downtown Vancouver, fragrance, hair and bath-and-body products are a huge draw at drugstores on Dec.

"Customers also come looking for

anything Quo Holi-day, and for the skinjust before the 25th,' Sorensen

care and haircare value sets that come out

Just as in

the depart-

ment

stores,

Watier and Elizabeth Arden, for instance, which worth significantly more than the purchase price.

"Occasionally, prestige fragrance companies will

offer limited-edition 30mL bot-1 tle sizes

for under \$25," she adds. But don't expect many

festive gift sets to wait around until the big sales. 'Makeup collections like the Lancôme Juicy Tubes Holiday Set of eight glosses those go before Christmas," confirms Sorensen.

"But you might find other pre-holiday sets from then that are further discounted.'

And if you're in a forgiving mood, you'll clean up on men's skincare starter





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PLUS HOLIDAY BONUS



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HOLIDAY BONUS



Enable your conversations Ultimate's Bluetooth-enabled FM transmitter lets you broadcast your telephone conversations and audio media through your vehicle's audio system using a built in FM transmitter. Available at Future Shop for \$119.99. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shopping

Shift your automobile gifts into high gear

CARS A car fanatic in your family? Or a gearhead yourself? Here are some great automotive accessory ideas to spend them on this Boxing Day: Compustar 1-Way

mote Start system keeps your vehi-

Remote Starter

for

cle warm during the winter and provides convenience you and your passengers. At Future Shop for \$149.99.



Martini Racing Sweat

This Porsche Design men's jacket features deep side pockets and the iconic Porsche logo embroidered on the back. For \$194 at your local Porsche

BMW Baby Racer II

With the BMW Baby Racer II (\$211.50) and the various accompanying street signs (\$28.50), road safety lessons begin on Christmas Eve. From BMW.ca.



Get geeked on tech toys

RAFAEL BRUSILOW for Metro Canada

Boxing Day is a great time to pick up those cool tidbits of gadget heaven that you already have in mind. Here are a few goodies to consider during the inevitable shopping

UNDER \$100:

Bodyguard Cinema iPhone Case - \$34.99

The iPhone certainly is n't known for being one of the sturdiest contraptions mean ing some sor of protec tive case is necessary if you're at all clumsy. Belkin's Bodyguard Cinema

takes away the need to something to prop up your iPhone every time you want to sit back and enjoy a video because it has a kickstand built right into the body of the case.

Logitech Anywhere MX Mouse - \$89.99

For the truly bohemian computer user, the Anywhere MX Mouse is a wireless, laser mouse that literally works where, on any surface even in glass

UNDER \$200:

DJ Hero for Nintendo Wii - \$129.99

DJ Hero is a ton of fun and really adds a fresh twist to the music-timing game genre by recreating the feel of being a real DJ in a way that doesn't feel egregiously out of whack with reality.

Gigabit Powerline HD

stream

adapter - \$149 - \$179 you want to

video vour computer Gigabit Powerline HD adapter wins big points for being extremely simple. The system uses two small adapters

that plug directly into wall sockets with one connecting to your Internet router and the other into devices like computers, TVs and gaming consoles. The latest firmware updates, which strengthen the signal when broadcasting between rooms. **BIG TICKET BUY:**

Sony Bravia VE5 Eco Series 40-inch LCD HDTV -\$1,999.99

best-seller for Sony and for good reason - the TVs have bright, crisp colours and excellent picture qual-





During the holidays

For more music and entertainment news during the holidays, visit metronews.ca/entertainment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

special boxing day issue **11**

Music



Michael Jackson's death was one of the most surprising moments in the music world in 2009.

Unforgettable moments

From MJ's death to Aerosmith's end, music went big in 2009

KEITH CARMAN for Metro Canada

As yet another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect. What a phenomenally exciting 12 months we've had: an endless stream of musical highlights, surprises, letdowns and meltdowns. Sifting through enough juicy gossip to fill a novel, here are a few of music's more unforgettable moments in 2009.

Highlights

Elton John and Billy Joel's first tour together in 15 years was as sweet as the piano greats' tunes of the past four decades. Fantastic, it was second only to a powerful live return from Irish rockers U2 on their 360 Degrees Tour. Massive and gripping, it re-established them on North American soil after their last stint, 1999's disappointing PopMart Tour.

On the borderline-come-

On the borderline-comeback level, Beyoncé Knowles narrowly escaped losing her place as top female pop artist with the video for Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It).

The footage reinvigorated her career after latest studio album I Am...

Surprises

While it was a shock to see pop singer Lady Gaga appear out of nowhere to become one of the year's top-selling artists (like, multi-million status), two greater jaw-droppers indelibly altered the landscape of music this year.

A potential highlight, R&B sensation Whitney Houston finally got her act together after years of drug abuse and mistreatment by husband Bobby Brown. Hearing her incredibly bad full-length I Look To You and the effect such addictions on her live voice was a sad shocker.

Still, love him or hate him, nothing astonished more than hearing Michael Jackson, the self-proclaimed King Of Pop, was pronounced dead at the age of 50 in June. As expected, an onslaught of queries, accusations and disturbing merchandise have followed.

Letdowns

Metal heads had hopes dashed as reports of a tour featuring the genre's biggest acts Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer and Anthrax were denied. Even more disturbing though, was this year's penchant for Auto-Tune, a studio device that corrects improper pitch for singers.

Meltdowns

Knowles was inadvertently part of 2009's most ridiculous meltdown thanks to hip hopper Kanye West.

He rudely interrupted teen idol Taylor Swift's acceptance speech for Best Female Video at the MTV Music Video Awards by grabbing the microphone to declare Beyoncé was unfairly beaten.

Lest we forget, rockers haven't been left out of the fray. Multi-million selling act Aerosmith were engaged with some rather public in-fighting, leaving singer Steven Tyler to officially announce his departure from the band on the eve of their 40th anniversary.

Here's hoping 2010 will offer up even greater highs, fewer lows and an endless stream of surprises.

Christmas is over, kick off the party with these tunes

Christmas Day may have come and gone, but there are probably a few more engagements on your social calendar between now and New Year's. And if you happen to be hosting, you may be wondering what music to play. Here are four albums recommended that everyone is sure to enjoy.

1. The House Party To End

All House Parties.

To reach this lofty goal, you need something perpetually driven, where the energy never dies. Try For Lack Of A Better Name (Ultra) by Deadmaus. Their high-octane tech house isn't concerned with anything but keeping feet moving.

2. The Dinner Party.

Try the colourful Malaw-

ian sounds of The Very Best's Warm Heart of Africa (Green Owl). Its feel-good vibes will have you dancing around the table à la Beetlejuice.

3. Just Warming Up.

In need of something to get you in a party mood? The the first two songs of Phoenix's Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix will kick things off right.

4. An Evening of Rock Band or Guitar Hero.

Try Ida Maria's Fortress 'Round My Heart (Mercury/Universal). Okay, so it might not be on either game, but they might just inspire you to start playing a real instrument in 2010.

CAM LINDSAY/







During the holidays

For more movie and entertainment news during the holidays, visit metronews.ca/entertainment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Enjoy Boxing Day at the movies

Unwind from holiday hassle with the season's latest and greatest flicks



Movies and Boxing Day go together like turkey and stuffing.

While everyone is returning unwanted Christmas gifts or fighting bargain hunters at the mall it's the perfect time to relax and catch up on flicks you missed in the hectic ramp-up to the holidays.

The multiplexes are jammed with new movies at this time of year. Go see Disney's first hand drawn fairy tale in twenty years, The Princess and the Frog, for the beautiful animation Stay for the great songs and first ever African-American princess.

Also kid friendly is Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel, which sees the three furry singing stars find some competition from The Chipettes, an all girl chipmunk group lead by (the voice of) Drew

Barrymore.

If singing rodents aren't your thing how about an all singing, all dancing movie from the usually ohso-serious Daniel Lewis?

The Oscar winner stars in Nine, a musical about a film director juggling rela-tionships with his wife, mistress, muse, agent and mother all while wearing

cool Italian suits.

If twisty-turny relationships turn your crank but an overdose of Christmas carols has put you off music for the week, you may find some yuks in watching Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin fight over Meryl Streep in the comedy It's Complicated or the soonto-be-divorced Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker enter the witness-protection program in Did You Hear About the Morgans?.

If you have time on your hands — or simply want a from Christmas house guests -Cameron's two-and-a-half-hour sci fi epic Avatar is the longest movie in current release.

Can't make the trip to the theatre? There's something on DVD or Blu-ray for everyone. For the kids there's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and G-Force.

Once the tots have gone to bed and grandma has had an extra sherry or two check out Trailer Park Countdown Liquor Day, Inglourious Basterds or The Hangover



Nine, starring Penelope Cruz makes for some showy musical fun.

for some adult entertainment.

For the music lover in the house there's Taking Woodstock and the excellent guitar rock doc It Might Get Loud.

For the lovelorn, (500) Days of Summer should confirm that love can be fleeting, and for the romantics, Julie & Julia should verify that food always tastes better with someone you love.

Whether staying home or going out, there are plenty of options to help while away a lazy Boxing

> Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

on the greats (Evil Dead, Dead Alive), this indie flick turned global success finds

teens fighting Nazi zom-

bies in a Norwegian cabin.

(Cars, Monsters Inc.) is

enough reason to go see

this film. It's a heart-warm-

The name Pixar

ing tale involving talk-

ing dogs, fly-

houses

As hilarious as it is gory.

FAMILY



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THE DARK KNIGHT — Antihero central. Batman's not so cutesy, The Joker is a to-

HORROR

A few favourite films

KEITH CARMAN

Movies: Necessary stress reduction after particularly frantic Christmas responsibilities (and an imposing New Year's Day hangover) or other occasions when a time-killer is of the essence.

While you're out bargain hunting today, here are some and old DVDs should consider

COMEDY STEP BROTHERS

buying.

- Even grown-ups need a nobrainer movie occasionally. Mission accomplished as two

40 year-olds act like rude toddlers. Dumb fun not suitable for, well, some adults, to be honest. **ACTION/DRAMA**

tal badass. Don't argue.

SON ONE — A baker able to bring the dead back to life

for one minute — longer if someone else dies in their place — resuscitates his childhood love. Insanity ensues and yes, it gets weirder. Comedy? Yup. Drama? Certainly. Indeli-



and life lessons capable jerking tears grumbly dads like this one. **TELEVISION** PUSHING DAISIES, SEA-

bly interesting?

Hot damn!



Celebrity Buzz

2009: The year of celebrity deaths

Year in **Review**

BRIAN COULTON

Headliners in life and death, the many stars who died this past year were a sure hit to the Hollywood community.

While shrouded in controversy, and others premature accitheir dents. deaths permeated internationmedia,

marking one last moment in the limelight. Here, Metro looks back at the names-in-

lights that flick-

ered out in 2009. MICHAEL JACK-

When rumors began to circulate on June 25 that Michael Jackson went into the whole world speculated whether the King of Pop was hanging up his crown for good.

It would only be hours before the 50-year-old pop star's death was confirmed. an event that graced the front pages of newspapers everywhere and brought the Internet to a crawl.

concluded Autopsies homicide prompted by a deadly drug combination caused Jackson's death, a

final puzzling piece in the troubled artist's life. **FARRAH**

Surely the year's darkest day the for celebrity world, June 25 also saw the death of actress and sex symbol Farrah Faw-

Notable 2009 celebrity deaths

Mar. 22 – Jade Goody, 27, reality TV star (cancer)

 April 25 – Bea Arthur, 86, actress (cancer)

 June 3 – David Carradine, 72. actor (autoerotic asphyxiation) • June 28 - Billy Mays, 50, TV pitchman (heart disease)

 July 17 — Walter Cronkite. 92, broadcaster (cerebral vascular disease)

Aug. 6 – John Hughes, 59,

cett at 62.

original

Charlie's

winning

several

Golden

Globes

Emmy

awards.

her cul

tural in-

flu-

ence

and

Angels and

Despite com-

ing to fame as

one of the

filmmaker (heart failure) Aug. 28 - Adam (DJ AM) Goldstein, 36, disc jockey (accidental drug overdose)
• Sept. 16 – Mary Travers, 70,

singer, Peter Paul & Mary (chemotherapy complications) Oct. 10 – Stephen Gately, 33, singer, Boyzone (natural causes)

Dec. 20 — Brittany Murphy. 32, actress (cardiac arrest)

extended well beyond acting. Fawcett's flipped-out hairstyle inspired scores of women; her iconic

pinup poster, countless

Three years after being diagnosed with anal cancer, Fawcett died, leaving behind anal video documentation of her battle, which was later turned into the documentary Farrah's Story.

Cancer also claimed celebrated actor Patrick Swayze on Sept. 14, about one month after his 57th birthday. Swayze chasséd his way into the spotlight with his role as a dance instructor in the 1987 film Dirty Dancing, which inspired a stage musical, reality TV show and video game.

His co-starring role in the 1990 film Ghost earned him respect as a serious actor, which influenced his

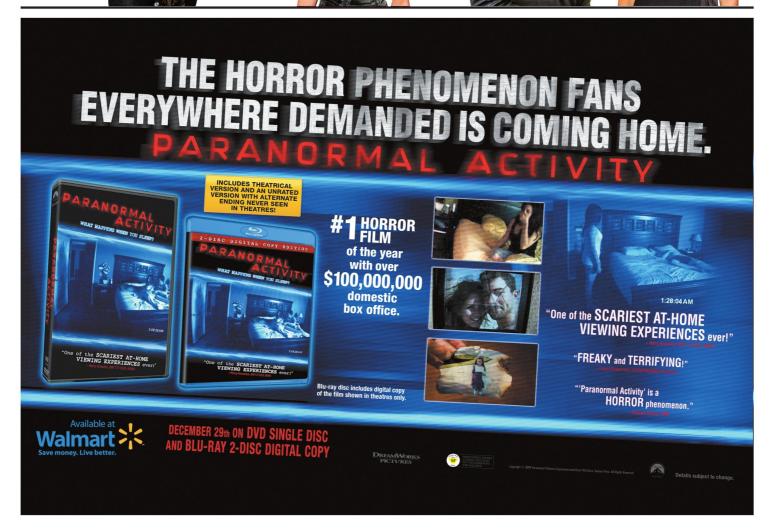
future stage and screen roles Swayze finally succumbed to pancreatic cancer less than two years after being diagnosed

After an accidental fall and resulting head injury during a skiing lesson at a Mont Tremblant, Que., resort, English actress Natasha Richardson died on March 14 at 45. Daughter of famed actress Vanessa Redgrave and British new wave auteur Tony Richardson, and wife of actor Liam Neeson, Richardson was a respected actress in her own right. A performer on stage and screen, she was praised for

> Gothic, The Handmaid's Tale, Nell and Wid-

her roles in

ows' Peak.

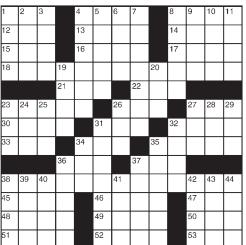


During the holiday

For more games, daily horoscopes and recipes during the holiday season, visit metronews.ca METRO NEWS SERVICES

special boxing day issue 15

Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1				1		7	
6	1				5	2		
	9		2			4		
	2			4	3		5	
8								6
	7		6	5			2	
		7			9		8	
		2	1				9	3
	4		8					

1 Chum 4 Body powder 8 Advantage 12 Actress Thurman 13 Needle case 14 Cozy corner 15 Hoover's org. 16 Word of warning 17 Sand formation 18 Very bright color 21 Prompt 22 Londoner's letter

23 Honey bunch? 26 Lustrous black 27 "See va" 30 Indiana city 31 Answer to the Sphinx's riddle 32 Disposition 33 Copper head? 34 "— the ramparts ..." 35 Less 36 Lisa Simpson's 19 Beige instrument

37 Skedaddled

38 Youth group that went co-ed in 1975 45 Hodgepodge 46 Annual fashion award 47 A billion years 48 Crazy 49 Largest of the seven 50 Past 51 Option from Howie Mandel 52 — -do-well 53 Morning mois-

1 Compact disc?

2 Both (Prefix) 3 Den 4 Liturgical hymn 5 Expiate 6 Breather? 7 Kane, e.g. 8 Over and done with 9 Sullen 10 Vanished 11 Supplemented, with "out"

23 Resort 24 Symbol of intrigue 25 "All the Things You -26 Discordance 27 "- voyage!" 28 Thee 29 Mag. staffers 31 Popular foreign cuisine 32 Revealing skirt 34 Lummox 35 Hungarian 36 Reel 37 Tend a

stubborn ribbon 38 Freezing 39 Lotion additive 40 Isinglass, e.g. 41 Got up 42 Peruse 43 Theater box 44 Winter

forecast

Metro Recipe of the Day



20 Trawler gear





Fruity Yogurt with Chocolate Chip and Nut Crunch

INGREDIENTS:

4 chocolate chip shortbread cookies 1/2 cup (125 mL) toasted hazelnuts, chopped 2 tbsp (25 mL) clear honey 2 small bananas, sliced 4 ready-to-eat dried apricots, chopped 2 1/2 cups (600 mL) plain

METHOD:

1. Put shortbread biscuits in plastic bag and crush coarsely using rolling pin. Tip into bowl and mix

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

with toasted hazelnuts and honey.

2. Mix bananas and apricots into vogurt and divide among four bowls. Top with biscuit, nut and honey mixture. Serve at once.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20 If someone tries to lay the

blame for some kind of failure at your door you must let them know that you reject the accusation that it is all your fault.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23

Make it your aim to cheer up someone who is feeling a bit depressed this weekend. Remind them that living is supposed to be fun.

TAURUS

Something you have believed in since you were young will be called into question over the next few days and you may be tempted to abandon it.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Get up, get out and start doing the things that will take you from where you are now to where you want to be in the not too distant future.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

As Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde this weekend, if you overlook an error, deliberate or otherwise, it could be costly.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

You need to make up your mind about an offer and you need to do so quickly. If you put it off any longer the offer may be withdrawn.

CANCER

If there is something important you need to say to a loved one, say it immediately. It won't be so easy to say it tomorrow.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Mercury turns retrograde in your sign this weekend, so if there is something you need to say then say it now while the words still come easy to you.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Hide your feelings about the people you are working with and get on with a job that can only be completed successfully if you pull together.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

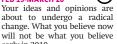
It may appear to others as if vou never have self-doubts but you suffer from indecision as much as anyone and that will be more evident than usual.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22
As Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde today you won't be popular if you cannot deliver. Don't let your enthusiasm carry you away.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



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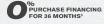
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